

Message Text

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SUBJECT:ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: STATE 022819

FOLLOWING IS FINAL TEXT OF ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
FOR YOUR COUNTRY FOR PRESENTATION TO HOST GOVERNMENT IN
ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS.

SENEGAL HAS A FREELY-ELECTED, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT,
WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED THE FRAMEWORK FOR A MULTI-PARTY
SYSTEM. LOCAL ELECTIONS IN LATE 1976 WERE CONTESTED BY
THE OPPOSITION, AND OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL CHALLENGE
THE INCUMBENT SOCIALIST PARTY (PARTI-SOCIALISTE) IN THE
LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN FEBRUARY,
1978. SENEGAL FIRMLY SUPPORTS U.S. POLICY INITIATIVES
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FOR MAJORITY RULE IN AFRICA, FAVORS REGIONAL COOPERATION
ON THE CONTINENT, AND WARMLY ENDORSES THE U.S. HUMAN
RIGHTS POLICY. THE SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD IN
IMPLEMENTATION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS GOOD.

1. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING
FREEDOM FROM

A. TORTURE

STATUTORY PROHIBITIONS AGAINST TORTURE ARE RESPECTED
AND ENFORCED.

B. CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR
PUNISHMENT

THESE DO NOT EXIST IN SENEGAL, NOR DO WE HAVE ANY
REPORTS OF ARBITRARY DEPRIVATIONS OF LIFE.

C. ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT
HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN RECENT YEARS.

D. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL

THE RIGHT TO A FAIR, PUBLIC TRIAL IS OBSERVED.

E. INVASION OF THE HOME

THERE ARE EFFECTIVE LEGAL SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ARBITRARY
INVASION OF THE HOME.

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2. GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT
OF SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH
CARE EDUCATION

THE DECEMBER, 1976, EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF SENEGAL'S
GOVERNING SOCIALIST PARTY, AMONG OTHER ACTIONS, ADOPTED
A RESOLUTION AIMED AT RAISING PER CAPITA INCOME SUB-
STANTIALLY, PROMOTING MODERN AGRICULTURE, ACCELERATING
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE-DIRECTED SOCIAL SERVICES
SECTOR, AND PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT--PARTICULARLY NON-
SALARIED EMPLOYMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, THE
MOST IMPORTANT IN SENEGAL'S ECONOMY. THE BASIC MODEL
IS FOR A "SOCIALIST AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY" INCORPORATING
"SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM" AND THE "VALUES OF OUR NEGRO-
AFRICAN HUMANISM." FAMILY PLANNING AND REDUCTION OF THE
POPULATION EXODUS TO THE CITIES AND OF INEQUALITIES
BETWEEN THE REGIONS WERE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED. THE GOVERNMENT'S
FOURTH (ECONOMIC) PLAN, 1973-77, FOCUSED MORE ATTENTION
ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT THAN IN THE PAST, AND RESULTED IN
AN ARREST OF THE PREVIOUS DECLINING TREND IN THAT

SECTOR. THE NEW FIFTH (ECONOMIC) PLAN, 1977-81,

DEVOTES EVEN GREATER PROPORTIONATE RESOURCES TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES,
INCLUDING

A. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION
AND ASSEMBLY

FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THOUGHT AND INTELLECTUAL ENQUIRY ARE RESPECTED. THERE IS FULL FREEDOM OF RELIGION. FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IS RESPECTED. THE LABOR UNION MOVEMENT IS ACTIVE, ALTHOUGH GENERALLY SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENTAL GUIDELINES. THERE IS MOVEMENT TOWARD TRADE UNION PLURALISM
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PARALLELING THE POLITICAL PLURALISM NOW DEVELOPING IN SENEGAL.

THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON PRESS FREEDOM. THE LARGEST DAILY NEWSPAPER IS GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED, BUT OPPOSITION PARTY AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS ARE PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED. OVER THE PAST HALF-YEAR THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL JOURNALS PUBLISHED IN SENEGAL CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT AND PROPOSING NEW POLITICAL COURSES. THEIR FREE CIRCULATION REFLECTS THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW OPEN CRITICISM OF ITS POLICIES. DESPITE RECENT DEFAMATION CHARGES AGAINST TWO SATIRICAL OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS, SENEGALESE JOURNALISTS REMAIN STRIKINGLY OUTSPOKEN. AS A RECENT ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE JEUNE AFRIQUE NOTED "THE SENEGALESE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS FLOURISHED IN THE NASCENT MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM TO AN EXTENT WHICH WOULD BE UNIMAGINABLE IN MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES."

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY,
FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN SENEGAL IS UNRESTRICTED, AND THERE ARE NO CONTROLS ON FOREIGN TRAVEL OR EMIGRATION.

C. FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL
PROCESS

ALTHOUGH POLITICAL POWER IS NOW HELD BY THE SENEGALESE SOCIALIST PARTY, LEGALLY RECOGNIZED OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE ACTIVE, AND OPERATE WITH CONSIDERABLE FREEDOM. RECENT LOCAL ELECTIONS WERE HOTLY CONTESTED. ONE MINORITY PARTY, THE PARTI-DEMOCRATIQUE SENEGALAIS
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(PDA - SENEGALESE DEMOCRATIC PARTY) GAINED CONTROL OF TWO RURAL ASSEMBLIES IN NOVEMBER 1976.

THERE IS UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE IN LOCAL, REGIONAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

4. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

NO PROPOSALS FOR OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH REGARD TO SENEGAL. THE GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL APPEARS WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY SUCH PROPOSALS WHICH REFLECT LEGITIMATE CONCERNS.

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